

Message Text

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R 231849Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, EGEN, EINV
SUBJECT: ECOSOC WORKING GROUP ON CORRUPT PRACTICES

1. THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUPS, AMBASSADOR RIVAS OF COLOMBIA, IS BEING REASSIGNED, AND IT IS NECESSARY TO SELECT A NEW CHAIRMAN WHO WILL BE COMPETENT TO LEAD THE WORKING GROUP TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF ITS DIFFICULT TASK. THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN NEW YORK REQUIRES THAT THE CHAIRMAN BE SELECTED FROM AMONG THE G-77 COUNTRIES. VERY FEW OF THESE ARE REPRESENTED IN THE WORKING GROUP BY PERSONS WITH THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS. BY FAR, THE BEST CANDIDATE WOULD BE IRAN'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WORKING GROUP, FAROKH PARSI. HE HAS PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP FROM THE BEGINNING, AND HAS ESTABLISHED EXCELLENT RAPPORT WITH ALL THE DELEGATES. WHILE HE IS VERY BUSY WITH OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES IN NEW YORK, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT IN VIEW OF IRAN'S STRONG INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT, THE GOI MIGHT BE WILLING FOR HIM

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TO TAKE ON THIS IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT.

2. FOR TEHRAN: REQUEST EMBASSY TO APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTRY AT APPROPRIATE SENIOR LEVEL TO INQUIRE WHETHER GOI WOULD PERMIT PARSI TO ACCEPT ASSIGNMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS IS A US INITIATIVE AND THAT PARSI HAS NOT SOUGHT THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

USG IS MAKING THIS SUGGESTION IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT BOTH THE USG AND GOI ATTACH TO SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT ILLICIT PAYMENTS. PARSI WOULD BE AN OUTSTANDING CHAIRMAN AND THE HARD FACT IS THERE ARE NO SUITABLE ALTERNATIVES IN VIEW.

3. FOR USUN: FYI PARSI ASKS THAT YOU INFORM HIS AMBASSADOR OF THIS APPROACH. HE HAS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THE CHAIRMANSHIP AS LAST RESORT IF GOI APPROVES. END FYI. YOU SHOULD SOLICIT THE AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR PARSI'S DESIGNATION AS CHAIRMAN, DRAWING ON THIS CABLE AS APPROPRIATE.

4. THE NEXT MEEING OF WORKING GROUP IS SCHEDULED FOR NEW YORK MARCH 28-APRIL 8. THE WORKING GROUP, AFTER A SLOW START, IS BEGINNING TO MAKE PROGRESS AND HAS AGREED ON A STATEMENT OF ISSUES AS THE BASIS OF ITS FUTURE WORK. THE NEXT SESSION WILL BE CRITICAL IF THE WORKING GROUP IS TO DISCHARGE ITS MANDATE TO ELABORATE IN DETAIL THE SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND TO REPORT TO ECOSOC THIS SUMMER.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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